the influence of the persons responsible for encroachments, as most of them are retired senior Railway officials; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to provide free access to passengers for Anand Vihar Railway Station who are facing the problem for a very long time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Deputy Commissioner, East District, Delhi was approached to get the gates removed; and despite reminders no action has so far been taken.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The gates were ereted by a Cooperative housing society and manned by Chowkidars for security reasons and closed during night. As the gates are not in Railway land, the matter has been referred to the Civil Authorities for getting the gates removed for the larger interest of Railway passengers.

Harassment of passengers in Tatkal Coach of Saraighat Express

2935. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, "Cooped up with crooks on train" appearing in the "Statesman" dated 14.3.99 regarding harassment to passengers of the Tatkjal coach of Howrah bound 3046 Saraighat Express on 12.3.99;

(b) the action taken so far by the Railways in this incident; and

(c) the short term and long term action plan of government to prevent recurrence of such harsassement to the passengers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rail projects in U.P.

2936. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing rail projects in Uttar Pradesh since last three years, till date;

(b) what is the stipulated date for completion of these projects, alongwith the status of the progress made so far; and

(c) the funds provided for above projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The details of ongoing Railway Projects are available in the White Paper on Railway Projects placed in Parliament on 28.7.1998. Allocation of funds to Railway projects is a need based exercise where the relative priority of the project depending upon its physical progress, operational importance, national and strategic significance and social desirability; is the guiding factor. A number of Railway projects span across more than one State. Therefore, State/Regional boundaries are not a criterion for deciding Railway investments. Statwise details of Railway Projects are, therefore, not maintained.

Passenger Facilities at Railways Stations in Andhra Pradesh

2937. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been negligible improvement in passenger facilities at Railway Stations in Andhra Pradesh;